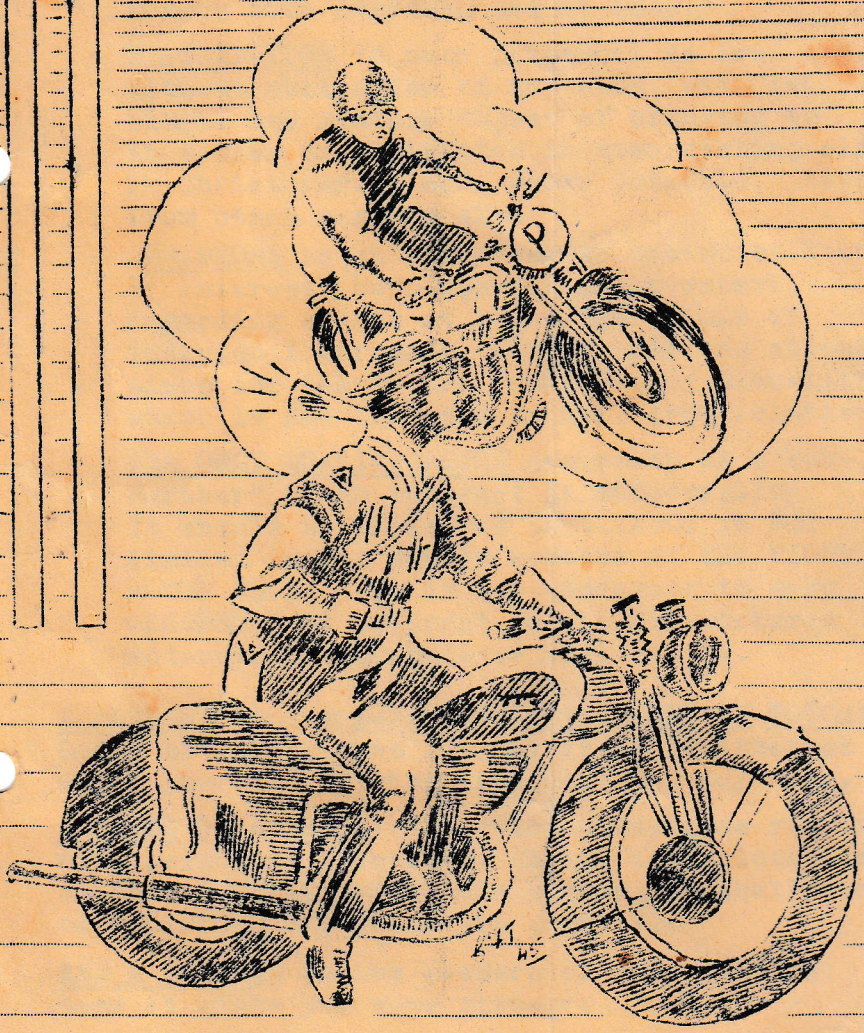
MEGAPHONE



NEWSLETTER
of the

March 1945

Pioneer Motor Club

P.O. Box 106 CHRISTCHURCH N.Z.

M E G A P H O N E --- Issue Number 11 of the
M E G A P H O N E --- PIONEER MOTOR CLUB
M E G A P H O N E --- Newsletter, March 1945.

DEAR MEMBER:

By the time MEGAPHONE 11 reaches its farther destinations in the Middle East and Great Britain, the end of the European conflict may well have become a reality, as far as the cessation of hostilitie is concerned. If this result, motorcyclists and motorcycling can wel claim to have played an important pant, for motorcycling has gone to war in a far more direct and complete sense than can be said of any other sport.

When, however, Germany finally decides she has had it, many great and personal problems which have hitherto belonged to the future will have assumed a close and important urgency. The packing up, the journey home, and the first meeting with relatives and friends -- those are the first, and most pleasant problems to surmount. There will be glad reunions - with the folks at home - with that one specia person who's been waiting so long - with those kiddies who have grown so much in the last three or four years. And later on, there will be those first glorious handles with the rest of the gang down in the old favourite haunt...

But when all the old contacts have been renewed, the overseas leave finished, the travelling-warrant squeezed to its last drop, a fresh set of questions will need their individual answers. The job? A house? And...not too far down the list, the Good Old Sport. Another machine - shall it be a new one, or an ex-Army job, or perh s a bike to be specially kept for trials and sports days? All these questions, too, will need the right answer, if the threads of your peace-time life are to be successfully re-tied.

Whatever decisions you make, however, regarding your own personal riding plans for the future, be certain of one thing - motorcycling an the pleasant round of club activity have a big place for you. If you intend to resume active competition, so much the better. If not then your experience, your skill, your knowledge, and you, are still urgently needed in club circles. From MEGAPHONE 1 till now you have been reading the names of new riders, fresh competitors. Still more are joining our ranks at an ever-increasing tempo. Many of them have never seen a road-race, a beach meeting, a Moeraki... circumstances hav prevented that. But when the full range of competition is resumed, when the present restrictions are removed, all the wisdom and exper-

lence that the "greybeards" can give will not be too much if the present rate of progress is to be maintained and intensified in the days to come.

MEANTIME, once more MEGAPHONE brings you griff of important happenings at home, of new decisions and further progress in the effort to make motorcycling even more completely the One and Only Sport.

> WITH GREAT REGRET, however, do we announce yet another casualty in our ranks...SGT-PILOT JIM WOOD, RNZAF, erstwhile s.v. Triumph rider and trials competitor, has been reported missing on his first operational flight in the European area. May better news come quickly...

SPORTS EVENTS, since last MEGAPHONE, have comprised two short but largely-attended and enjoyable sporting trials. Still more new riders have entered, and have put up some excellent performances. The trials-handicap system instituted last year and still in operation, is paying handsome dividends in the encouragment and protection of inexpert competitors.

BROOKLANDS, the Club's popular trials area, is an inexhaustible source of new trials sections, and in addition the February Sporting Trial incorporated a short but spectacular Scramble course which may be capable of extension in some future event.

TWENTY-TWO COMPETITORS started in the event, which, starting from the Styx Bridge, Marshlands, took riders over a succession of grass, water and sand sections of increasing severity. A sterling performance by KEN ROBINSON, younger brother of PMC Captain ARTHUR ROBINSON, gained him first place and the Wooff & Salvasen Cup with a loss of only 17 marks. 2nd: A.A. ROBINSON(9 section marks lost, handicap 17, total 26); 3rd: BILL HAWKINS (25-4-29). R.COOKSLEY, J. BOND, N. HARRIS, N. BARLASS, W. McLAUGHLIN, W. LOGAN, N. CALDWELL, D. CALDWELL, M. RUSH, A. HARDING, G. HOCKLEY, G. UPFIELD, L. TYSON, R. CAMPBELL, T. BATEMAN being the other finishers in that order. The Scramble (and what a scramble) was won by one DICK CAMPBELL on a famous KTT.

THE MOUTH OF MARCH has been an important one for motorcyclists throughout the Dominion, with the release of several hundreds of Army machines impressed at the outset of war.

MOTORCYCLE SHOPS in Christchurch towards the end of March and early April have assumed a busy and thriving appearance comparable with the piping days of peace, but for the fact that the models on view were uniformly clothed in anti-corrosive grey instead of gleaming colour andchromium. Many once-famous machin have been through the dealers' hands - the Rush Manxman, the Alexander Rudge and Tiger-100, and many others. An unprecedented rush on the part of old and new riders for these machines resulted in sales figures sufficnent to make a dealer's dream a few years ago. The condition of the machines has varied from(internally)good to fair, but a certain amount of work has necessarily been required on such items as finish (under the Army paint), cables and electrical gear, and other external fittings. Prices have ranged generally from £35 to £55 or £60, and many a proud owner has emerged from dealers' doors during the past few weeks with the model of his choice. A further batch is expected out during the next few days.

THE RELEASE of these machines has had several repercussions in motorcycling circles. It has, of course, tended to bring down the formerly high prices obtaining for second-hand machines sold privately; it has put a large number of new and inexperienced riders on the road; and it has provided a large and welcome impetus to Club activity.

COMPLETION of MEGAPHONE 11 has been delayed until April in order to give further news of wide interest, and it is hoped that Kiwi-readers will forgive the delay in view of the gen which the following pages contain.

CLUB WORKSHOP - a question of much importance, many headaches, and long endeavour to secure suitable premises. The idea, born of the desire to provide bench and repair facilities for many motorcyclists who wished to do their own minor adjustments and repairs, is now an accomplished fact with the securing of suitable premises and the fitting up of benches, tools and equipment.

Towards the end of March, the old JOE BOND-ROY PEARSON shop at 165 Ferry Road, CHCh., was secured. Four walls and a large empty space provided Committee members with a job of wor and gradually the paint-brush, wielded by Official Painters LEN LEPPER and NEIL HARRIS, hammers and other means of construction, and several Committee working-bees, have put the workshop into shape complete with a selection of tools and equipment which daily grows l rger as more items come in. The Club's third and youngest publication, "TAPPETS", is a roomy and

bright wall-newspaper which features Club notices, photographs of events, news of all kinds, and even classified ads! A shadow-board for small tools, soldering gear, a good vise and other equipment give members facilities for their own running repairs, whilst a Club library is in process of formation.

APRIL 11TH was the Opening Date, and a number of members dropped in to give the workshop the once-over. Scheduled to open two nights a week, and Saturday afternoons at present, the workshop has already proved the value of a place where the lads can sit on boxes and yarn to their heart's content, and maybe do something useful for themselves at the same time.

PMC COMMITTEE view is that riders will find that not only will machine maintenance be easier, but other riders will become better known, and new friendships will be made, in the informal and pleasant atmosphere of a workshop with the model alongside and a box to sit on while the yarn is told.

COMPLETION OF MEGAPHONE 11 has been delayed in order that the "Harley Cup" Sporting Trial of April 8th might be covered by "MEGAPHONE" newshawk.

THE "HARLEY CUP" TRIAL had, amongst many other pleasing features, a record war-time entry of 28 - see above paragraph on new riders and ex-Army machines. Ten of these competitors had never previously ridden in a Trial...a pleasing augury of the future. The famed water-splash in Lincoln Road ("just past the Giggle-factory", quoting official directions) comprised both the start and the first section, the course (including a timed section) thence leading to Hallswell, Cashmere, and back to the Rose Street splash. What expert riding can achieve was shown by BILL McLAUGHLIN, who rode the thirteen sections with a loss of only one riding mark. From the North Island, DOUG DUNLOP came to compete on the well-known Beesa. Veteran VIC BROWNE reappeared after several years' absence from the ranks, complete with both machine and press-camera, and the best series of photographs since DAVE McMILLAN's departure resulted. Results were: BILL McLAUGHLIN (section marks lost 1 - handicap 19 - total 20) 1st; TERRY COX (3-19-22) 2nd; MICK HOLLAND (14-19-33) 3rd; KEITH HITCHIN 4th (and winner of "New Riders'" trophy); A. ROBINSON, JOE BOND, KEN ROBINSON, NEIL HARRIS, BILL HAWKINS,

VIC BROWNE, K. BARNASS, and HARRY MITCHELL (equal); DOUG DUNLOP, E. McLAUGHLIN, J. KERR, R. NORDSTROM, BILL BENNETT, HOWARD CHRISTIE, P. LEWINGTON, TONY BATEMAN, J. KELSTEVEN, J. PEPPER, J. JOYCE, R. COOKSLEY DICK CAMPBELL, LEN TULLETT, I. McCORMACK.

NEW MEMBERS, chiefly as a result of these events, are coming in at present with great gusto. The total elected this month equalled that for the whole of 1943.

"BAR-NONE" MOTOR-CYCLE CLUB, a unique organization formed in the Middle East, has run many events which have been the envy of civilian clubs in all parts of the world. A report from a recent issue of "NZEF Times" includes the following news:

"The Club boasts a wide membership, comprising service repre-
"sentatives from all countries in the Middle East, as well as
"Italy and the Balkans. The club, at its first annual meeting,
"decided on its policy, which is to create a number of branches
"in the United Kingdom and the Dominions, to be run as ordinary
"motorcycling clubs, but governed by a central headquarters.
"Membership will be open to all men and women interested in the
"sport, but no date has been fixed for the entry of those who have
"not been members while in the Middle East. The headquarters of
"the club will eventually be transferred to the United Kingdom.
"At Maadi last October a trial was held in which 100 motorcyclist
"demonstrated their skill over a tricky 10-mile desert circuit.
"A similar trial is to be held, probably this month (January).
"It is expected that at least 150 riders from Britain, Canada, NZ
"and South Africa will take part."

COMMENT: Could a motorcycle club in NZ be successfully governed from Great Britain? News-conscious DAVE McMILLAN, in sending this cutting, makes the same observation. What do you think?

ALSO OF INTEREST is a recent announcement that NZ imports of motor-cycles from Great Britain will be increased by 175% on existing licenses. Does this mean that Britain, in order to re-capture Dominion markets, has persuaded Governments to allow increased imports of machines (possibly Army surpluses)?

SUNBEAM M.C.C. (LONDON), and Secretary Frank Pinhard have been hard at it again. The London Clubs' Discussion Group, sponsored by Pin, has gone from initial success to an important part of current British motorcycling. Any resultant influence by the declared views of sporting riders on the trade can only be to the good.

TIMARU has long been dormant as far as motorcycle sport is concerned, but if JIM OLD has his way, this situation will shortly be remedied.

Already JIM has a nucleus of riders, and the impending arrival of ex P.O.W. TOM KING may give the longed-for revival the right sort of boost.

WESTERN SPRINGS (AUCKLAND) still continue both motorcycle and midget-car speedway meetings. Several Christchurch lads have recently "had some" during visits to Auckland.

MATRIMONIAL NEWS is again featured: DOUG DUNLOP entered the realm of marital bliss in January, and to JUNE and DOUG go our best wishes; Corks and tin-tops are waiting to pop in honour of IAN WARD, who will feature in a similar ceremony at the end of this month. To PAT and IAN also, G'luck!

SPEAKING OF VITAL STATISTICS, here is a disclaimer. The Editor of MEGAPHONE wishes to notify all customers (particularly BILL ALEXANDER who gleefully wrote congratulations and a lot of phony advice) that he is not a "proud Pappy" (yet). Apparently a similarity of names was sufficient to start a rumour going. If it were not for the long hours put into "MEGAPHONE", something might be done.....

ASHBURTON M.C.C., whilst still unable, through the absence of so many riders, to recommence sports activities, is, chiefly through the enthusiasm of Hon. Secretary MAIDA LEASK, still taking a keen interest in current affairs.

WHICH REMINDS US of another "marriage casualty", that of HERB BROWNING, back in NZ after a long spell of Navy service overseas.

PASSED ON FROM ASHBURTON M.C.C., a recent air-letter from KEITH GLOSSOP gives news of other contacts in the Middle East including NEV MOORE, ARTHUR LEASK, RON CHAMBERS, ANGUS LAURENSON, BUTCH PIERSON. Glad to hear that "Glossie" likes "MEGAPHONE", supplied by Angus Laurenson.

PAT BLAMIRE, also mentioned by Glossie, is heard to be returning to NZ, and a certain Triumph wa recently observed at one of the local motor shops, undergoing extensive renovations.

EX-3 PROVOST COY members ANGUS LAURENSON, ALAN WEAR, SAM BESLEY and others will be interested: a casual mention of motorcycling in conversation with colleague TOM BRYCE produced an excellent series of photographs of 3/PROV.SP trials at Heathcote, tall dark and handsome film stars on the Fox-Movietone lot at Brooklands, and a lot of mud,

UP-TO-THE-MINUTE NEWS is that, amongst a further contingent of furlough personnel to arrive in NZ are the following: MAURICE WEAR (after a protracted stay in the ME on his way home from even further afield), NORM McGINN (for the second time), ALAN VEALE and REG DUMPLETON. To these Kiwis...the warmest welcome.

CORRESPONDENCE, lighter this time because of rather erratic delivery from overseas, nevertheless acts as one of the chief sources of personal news and an indication that MEGAPHONE is a currently worth-while feature.

HEC ORCHARD, from a forward Pacific base, writes of privately-owned scooter-bikes with wheels that "somehow seem to have a resemblance to the tail-wheel of an aircraft;" of jeeps that will go through clean where even the great BESLEY wouldn't; (blasphemy!) of a longing for a certain '39 AJS and the future day when petrol will be a matter of saying "fill 'er up". Some of SAM BESLEY's Rotorua class-mates are in the same vicinit

ALAN WEAR, in a short note, mentions a familiar gruffle from the next tent, proving to be LLOYD KIRKMAN. IVAN HAPPER is also on a neighbouring Pacific station; BILL ALEXANDER, BILL NELSON and TERRY COX (the last two since returned) are amongst Alan's contacts. For plans and specifications to build a motor scoote Alan, please see para. re HEC ORCHARD above!

PETER PHILLIPS sends his first letter from the M.E., just after meeting up with MORRIE WEAR and NORM McGINN, the former "enjoyin himself on a certain 350 with super fork-springing." For hints on how to keep warm next winter, PETE, see recent "Crusader" cartoons of "The Two Types."

CHAS. SHEARD, in acknowledgment of MEGAPHONE, mentions contacts with ANGUS LAURENSON, ERN HARRIS, BUTCH PIERSON. Haven't forgotten the idea of members' parking area, Chas. It is not an easy problem however. Your regards are reciprocated by all at home,

OWEN ELLIS, a former member now resident in Canada, writes in acknowledgment of MEGAPHONE, giving an excellent account of Canadian motorcycle activities. A dazzling list of his own machines since 1936 ranges from a 1000 cc. ohv Harley Davidson to a '38 Vincent HRD and a '36 350 cc Excelsior Manxman; OWEN's regards go to GEOFF HOCKLEY, LEW GORINSKI, and other older member of all three local Clubs. To any Kiwi in Canada - contact eithe

SAM BESLEY, writing from a NZ airfield, reports recently farewelling BILL LOGAN, who, for once, didn't have his polygrips handy. (For further information on this subject, ask anyone who was at the PMC Christmas Party.) Sam's impression of Auckland is: "Too many two-strokes."

BILL LOGAN himself writes from his Pacific destination that he has already contacted ALAN WEAR, whilst IVAN HAPPLE is in the offing. Worthy of note is the fact that whilst the MEGAPHONE mailing list seems to include almost every APO in existence, new arrivals always seem to meet up with someone else from the clubs.

BILL ("TROPPO") ALEXANDER, in a self-described quantity of "intelligent prose", reports a recent bout, whilst in Auckland, of brewers' constipation (couldn't pass a pub). ART SMITH, having got used to baking with damp flour, is finding another Pacific spell not so bad (BILL said that, Smithy, not I). BILL's occupations range from imbibing the "evil amber fluid" to teaching younger members of the Squadron the facts of life. Incidentally, Bill, MEGAPHONE is bi-monthly, so don't go looking for February and March issues. The latter will not be bound in cream flannelette!

DAVE McMILLAN's contributions include several cuttings of interest and valued words of encouragement. Motorcycling is a pastime which keeps you "alive" and up with the times, DAVE, and the job of producing MEGAPHONE has its own compensations in this way. Information received is that DAVE's hand, on which operative treatment has been necessary, is now getting OK. Good enough to lift a few pots back home at the "Sign of the Buxom Bint" or some such hostelry, DAVE.

THE REGARDS OF ALL BACK HOME to all motorcyclist Kiwis overseas, and to all in the Dominion in other centres, camps, and air-stations. To all, a short but happy message - IT WON'T BE LONG NOW.

About MEGAPHONE.

MEGAPHONE, issued by the PIONEER MOTOR CLUB, Christchurch, New Zealand, is a newsletter more especially for personnel in the NZ Armed Forces both overseas and at home.

DISTRIBUTION to such personnel is free and without obligation of any kind, with the simple and sincere object of bringing to them news of activities in motorcycling circles in Christchurch, and, where possible, news from other centres also.

MEGAPHONE is an endeavour to broadcast items of interest, both general and personal, regarding events at home, the doings of individual personalities at home and abroad, plans for the future, and news of Club-life which is not included in mail from relatives.

THE ONLY QUALIFICATION necessary as a "subscriber" is an interest in motorcycling. It should be explained that issue is NOT limited in any way to members of the PIONEER MOTOR CLUB. It is our endeavour to make MEGAPHONE of interest to all Christchurch motorcyclists, wherever they may be.

A REQUEST to overseas readers: KEEP IN TOUCH! Let's have your news ... any items of interest about yourself or other contacts you may make.

CHANGES OF ADDRESS: Service conditions require that many personnel frequently change their location. Let us know PROMPTLY when this occurs, so that your copy of MEGAPHONE may reach you promptly.

AND A WELCOME to new readers of this edition. We hope it gives you some pleasure.

TO EVERYONE --- it's your MEGAPHONE. Help us to make it worth while.

A SUGGESTION --- PASS THIS COPY ON.